

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 230608

53

ORIGIN NEA-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

66601

DRAFTED BY: NEA/ARP:FMCICKMAN

APPROVED BY: NEA/ARP:FMDICKMAN

----- 067390

R 231702Z NOV 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANAA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 230608

FOLLOWING REPEAT LONDON 13657 ACTION SECSTATE INFO USUN NY
SANTIAGO, NOVEMBER 22ND:

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LONDON 13657

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, IMCO

SUBJ: IMCO ASSEMBLY: "PLAYA LARGA" INCIDENT

1. SHARP AND PROTRACTED EXCHANGE BETWEEN CUBA AND CHILE WAS PRECIPITATED IN IMCO ASSEMBLY BY RESOLUTION INTRODUCED BY ALGERIA, BULGARIA, CUBA, GDR, GUINEA, IRAN AND YEMEN CONDEMNING SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACK ON CUBAN VESSEL "PLAYA LARGA." EFFORT WAS MADE BY SPONSORS TO APPEND RESOLUTION TO REPORT OF MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE UNDER RUBRIC OF "FREE NAVIGATION OF CARGO SHIPS," BUT IT WAS REFERRED BY COMMITTEE II TO PLENARY AS BEING OUTSIDE JURISDICTION OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE.
2. WHEN TAKEN UP IN PLENARY, CUBAN REP ENLIVENED DEBATE BY WAVING PHOTOS DRAMATIZING EXTENT OF DAMAGE SUSTAINED BY MILITARY ATTACK ON MERCHANT VESSEL. FACTS THEN FURTHER DISTORTED BY YEME REP WHO IDENTIFIED U.S. AS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 230608

ATTACKER. (AFTER U.S. OBJECTED TO FALSE CHARGE, YEMEN

REP TOOK FLOOR AGAIN TO CORRECT HIS STATEMENT AND THERE-
AFTER APOLOGIZED PRIVATELY TO DELEGATION FOR ERROR.)
CHILEAN REP READ COUNTERING FACTS INTO RECORD, AND
EMPHASIZED THAT CONDUCT OF "PLAYA LARGA" JUSTIFIED
ACTION, WHICH HAD BEEN TAKEN BY CHILEAN AUTHORITIES
UNDER OWN RESPONSIBILITY.

3. POLEMICS RAN INTO SECOND DAY BEFORE CONCERTED ACTION
BY WEO DELS MANAGED TO FORCE CLOSE OF DEBATE (24 (US)-
14-16) IN ORDER TO DECIDE WHETHER CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT
RESOLUTION SHOULD BE DISCONTINUED ON GROUNDS THAT AS
POLITICAL ISSUE IT WAS INAPPROPRIATE TO IMCO ASSEMBLY.
SAME MAJORITY THEN PROMPTLY RULED (25(US)-15-13) THAT
DRAFT RESOLUTION WAS INAPPROPRIATE.

4. CHAIRMAN HAD GRATUITOUSLY RULED DURING FOREGOING
PROCEDURAL MOVES THAT REJECTION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION
WOULD NOT PRECLUDE CONSIDERATION OF APPROPRIATE
ALTERNATIVES, AND MEXICAN REP QUICKLY TABLED MOTHERHOOD-
TYPE RESOLUTION SIMPLY CONDEMNING ACTS "WHICH MIGHT PUT
INTO DANGER HUMAN LIVES AND SAFETY AT SEA." IT CON-
TAINED NO REFERENCE TO "PLAYA LARGA" INCIDENT, AND
WAS ADOPTED 51(US)-0-2.

5. COMMENT. ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT YANKOV (BULGARIAN
AMBASSADOR TO UK) WAS, IN VIEW OF DELEGATION, PERSONALLY
RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING DEBATE AS LONG AND ACRIMONIOUS
AS IT BECAME, AND COMMENTS FROM NUMBER OF OTHER DELEGA-
TIONS CONFIRM THIS VIEW. WHILE EXTREMELY COMPETENT AND
HITHERTO OBJECTIVE CHAIRMAN, YANKOV PLAYED HIGHLY
PARTESAN ROLE ON THIS ISSUE AND INTERPOSED SUCCESSION
OF DIFFICULTIES IN WAY OF THOSE SEEKING TO OBTAIN
DECISION ON APPROPRIATENESS OF FIRST RESOLUTION. AS
VOTES ULTIMATELY DEMONSTRATED, YANKOV AND THOSE
HE SERVED RECOGNIZED PRESUMABLY THAT THEIR OBJECTIVE
HAD TO BE IN DEBATE ITSELF AS THERE WAS LITTLE HOPE OF
ACHIEVING SORT OF ASSEMBLY DECISION THEY WISHED. IN
PURSUING THIS TACTIC FROM THE CHAIR AS FLAGRANTLY AS
HE DID, YANKOV MAY HAVE BLOTTED THE COPY BOOK OF THE
EEU AS PRESIDING OFFICERS IN IMCO FOR SOME TIME TO
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 230608

COME.
ANNENBERG UNQUOTE KISSINGER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SHIP HARASSMENT, LAW OF THE SEA, PLAYA LARGA, CARGO SHIPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: worrelsw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE230608
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA/ARP:FMCICKMAN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731116/aaaaalka.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: worrelsw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 FEB 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01-Feb-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <05 MAR 2002 by worrelsw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IMCO ASSEMBLY: "PLAYA LARGA" INCIDENT
TAGS: ETRN, CI, CU, IMCO
To: SANAA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005